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(54) Title: VISCOSITY REDUCTION OF VISCOELASTIC SURFACTANT BASED FLUIDS

(57) Abstract: Methods and compositions are disclosed for controlled addition of components that decrease the viscosity of the viscoelastic surfactant fluids or for controlled changes in the electrolyte concentration or composition of the viscoelastic surfactant fluids. One aspect of the invention relates to the use of internal breakers with a delayed activation. Another aspect of the invention relates to the use of precursors that release a breaking system such as alcohol by a process such as melting, slow dissolution, reaction with a compound present in the fluid or added to the fluid during or after the step of injecting, rupture of an encapsulating coating and de-adsorption of a breaking agent absorbed into solid particles. In another aspect of the invention, alcohols are included in a pad to reduce the low-shear viscosity and reduce the resistance to flow of the treatment fluids during a desired phase of the treatment.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 E21B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>WO 92 10640 A (WESTERN CO OF NORTH AMERICA) 25 June 1992 (1992-06-25)</p> <p>page 2, line 25 -page 3, line 15</p> <p>page 7, line 5 - line 18</p> <p>page 8, line 29 - line 35</p> <p>page 12, line 4 - line 26</p> <p>page 14, line 7 - line 21</p> <p>---</p>	1-3, 24, 27, 28
Y	<p>WO 92 12328 A (EXXON RESEARCH ENGINEERING CO) 23 July 1992 (1992-07-23)</p> <p>page 2, line 5 -page 3, line 6</p> <p>page 4, line 1 - line 8</p> <p>page 9, line 17 - line 27</p> <p>page 11, line 17 - line 21</p> <p>page 12, line 22 -page 3, line 5; claims 1,7,8</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-3, 5-7, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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